



**Agenda Item Number: 2006-5-8B**

## **BERNALILLO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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**Meeting Date:** May 9, 2006

**Department:** Infrastructure Planning   **Staff Contact:** Mary Murnane, Water Resources Program Manager  
Kerry Bassore, Water and Conservation Planner  
Steve Miller, Department Director  
Tim West, Deputy County Manager for Public Works

**TITLE:** Water Conservation Plan and Water Conservation Program

**ACTION:** Motion to approve:

1. Administrative Resolution **AR** **-2006** to establish and implement the Water Conservation Program for Bernalillo County facilities.
2. Administrative Resolution **AR** **-2006** to establish and implement the Water Conservation Plan for the unincorporated areas in Bernalillo County.

### **SUMMARY:**

Bernalillo County staff has been working closely with the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) and the community to develop the proposed Water Conservation Plan and Program. Successful water conservation at County facilities will reduce operational costs, reduce the need for acquiring additional water rights in the future, and illustrate the County's commitment to setting a good example. In 2004, the County completed water conservation audits for its facilities with the help of a Smart Use LLC, the ABCWUA and CH2MHill. The audit reports make recommendations for specific water conservation measures at individual facilities as well as guidelines for developing a water conservation plan. Key components of the program developed for County facilities include retrofitting high-flow fixtures, an educational program for employees, xeriscaping, improved maintenance and leak detection, and water conservation design standards for new facilities.

The County and its residents recognize the urgent need for water conservation, given the current drought, limited water supply and a rapidly growing region. The purpose of the Water Conservation Plan is to reduce water use in the unincorporated areas of the County and preserve water supply into the future. The County solicited public input on the plan during two series of public meetings held throughout the County. Public input has directed the Plan development by emphasizing the importance of educating the community, of considering the uniqueness of various areas of the County, and of the County's setting a good example by using water efficiently at its own facilities.

The proposed Plan includes recommendations for specific measures and outlines a schedule to implement the Water Conservation Program. The Plan will also estimate the resources required during different phases of implementation, and will serve as a guide for the water conservation ordinances that will define the Plan. Key components of the Water Conservation Program

include educational and outreach programs, incentives, and mandatory restrictions. Board approval of the Resolutions will allow staff to begin developing the ordinances.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. **AR -2006** adopting the Implementation Plan for Water Conservation Program at Bernalillo County Facilities
2. **AR -2006** adopting the Bernalillo County Water Conservation Plan
3. -Bernalillo County Water Conservation Plan  
-Bernalillo County Water Conservation Plan Appendices  
-Implementation Plan for Water Conservation Program at Bernalillo County Facilities  
**(AVAILABLE WITH THE COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR)**

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Water Conservation Grant	BC07-588800-03SP	\$25,000
40 Year Water Plan	BC06-560159-30PW	62,711

While this action alone will not require additional funding, implementation of the Water Conservation Plan will require initial implementation funding in FY06/07 of approximately \$500,000 and will involve a recurring expense in subsequent fiscal years.

### **STAFF ANALYSIS SUMMARY**

#### **COUNTY MANAGER**

Public Works staff has been working with the community to develop the proposed Water Conservation Plan and Program. The Plan calls for various measures to assure water conservation for County facilities and private residences. Upon Board approval, staff will begin plan implementation. Water conservation is critical to the future of this region. I recommend Board approval. TL 4/28/06

#### **DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER FOR PUBLIC WORKS**

Water conservation and the measures requiring implementation to achieve such are rapidly becoming urgent actions on the parts of governing bodies in the Southwest. Water sustainability may only be achieved if usage practices are regulated in the future. This action solicits the Board's approval of the guidelines developed by staff that will enable the subsequent development of ordinances that when approved will help mitigate the wasteful use of water in Bernalillo County. I recommend approval. TW 4/25/06

#### **LEGAL**

Resolution calls for the adoption of Water Conservation Plan and for the implementation of such at County facilities. Approved as to form only. Deboarh S. Seligman, Legal 4/25/06

#### **FINANCE**

##### **Budget**

The BC07-Grants and BC06-1/8 GRT funding is available in the current year budget for adoption of Water Conservation Plans and Authorization of Water Conservation Programs. A Budget Change Proposal for \$500,000 has been submitted and is on file in the budget office for recurring expense in subsequent fiscal years. Amy Childers, Financial Services Administrator 4/20/06